

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 7, 8,11, 12, 14-22, and 25-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,135,809 ("Asakawa"), and rejected claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asakawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,231,360 ("Horie"). By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, and 21. Claims 1-30 remain pending in the application.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, and 21 to recite a card connector comprising a second space and base plate wherein "no portion of said base plate extends into said second space." The specification, for example, provides support for the claimed second space at page 15, lines 3-10, stating that "[b]etween the two parallel second side walls 60 there is formed a space 61." Moreover, as illustrated in Fig. 1, no portion of base plate 7 extends into space 61, thereby providing exemplary support for the claim language. Figs. 2 and 3, for example, further support Applicants' claim amendments.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, 8,11, 12, 14-22, and 25-30 as being anticipated by Asakawa. Asakawa does not teach a second space "defined by said first and second side walls" where "no portion of said base plate extends into said second space," as recited in amended claims 1, 11, and 21.

As illustrated in Fig. 3 of Asakawa, for example, partitions 28, which comprise portions of the base plate of housing 2, sit between the alleged first and second side walls on which the Examiner relies. (See Office Action at 2-3, Fig. 3, reproduced below.)

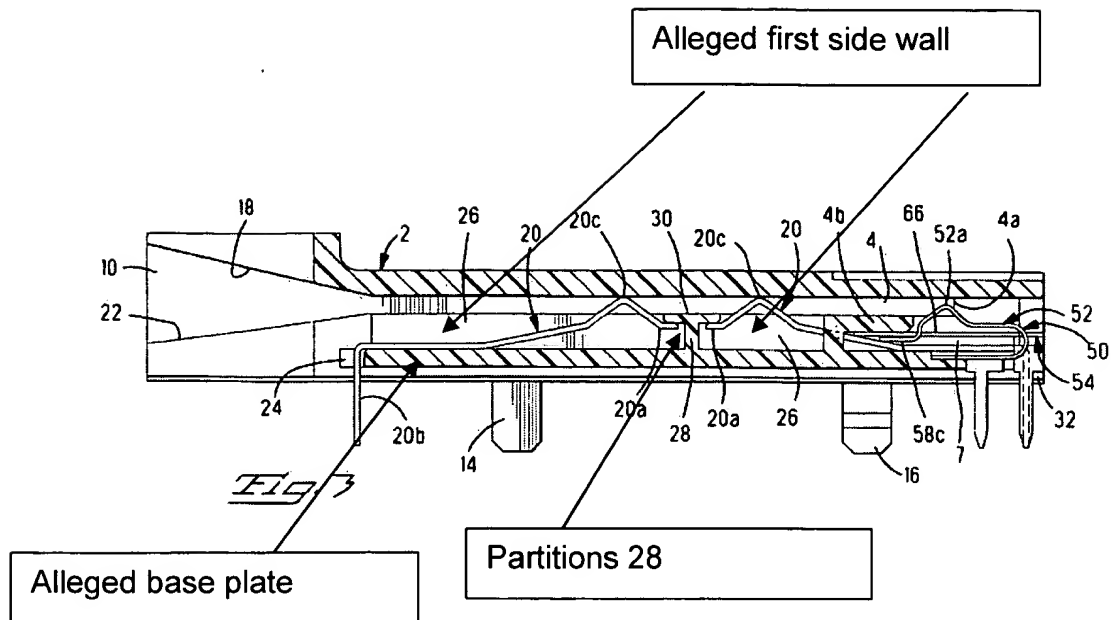
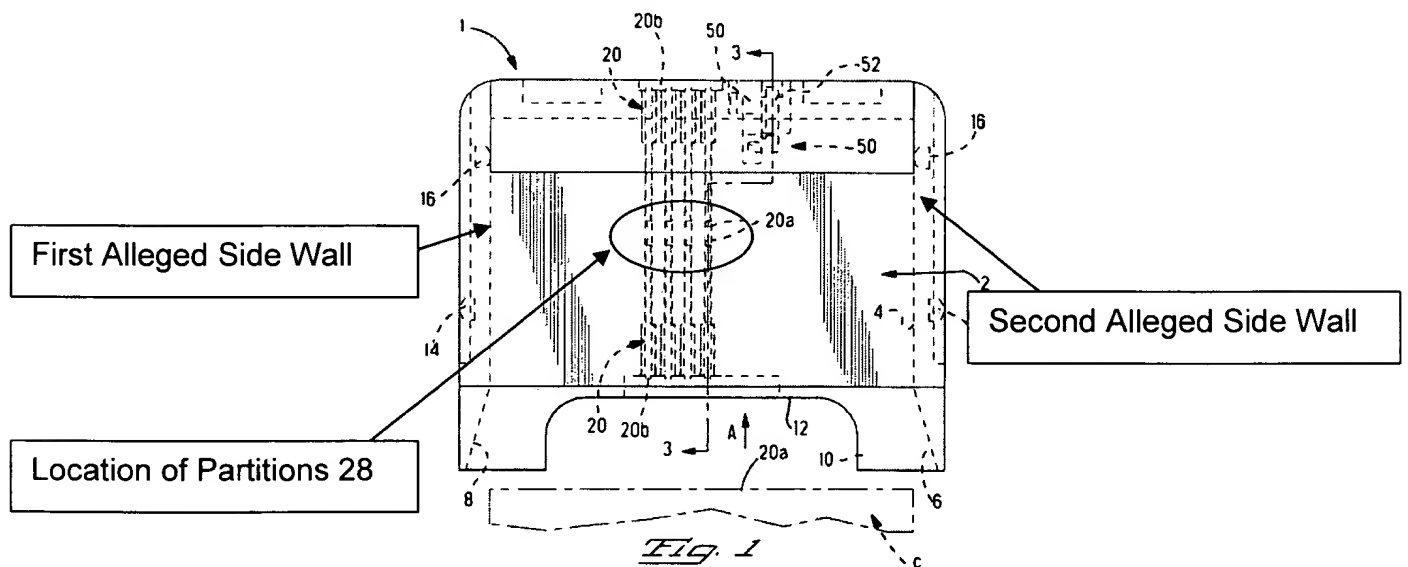


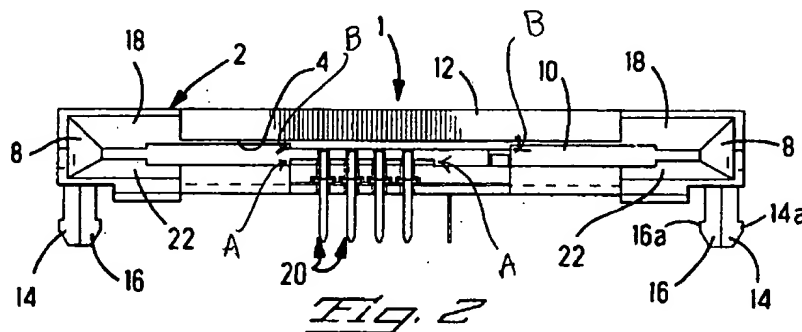
Fig. 1 of Asakawa, reproduced below, further illustrates that partitions 28 obstruct the alleged second space, because “free ends 20a of contacts 20 fit under retaining shoulders 20 on top of partitions 28.” (See Asakawa, Fig. 1, col. 3, l. 18-20.) Fig. 2 of Asakawa also shows that portions of the alleged base plate extend into the alleged second space.



Thus, as illustrated in Figures 1, 2, and 3 of Asakawa, partitions 28, which constitute portions of the alleged base plate, extend into any second space “defined by

said first and second side walls,” and Askawa does not teach the claimed base plate and second space such that “no portion of said base plate extends into said second space,” as recited in claims 1, 11, and 21 at least for this reason.

Moreover, as shown in Figure 2 of Askawa, reproduced below, elements protruding in to the alleged first and second spaces also prevent Askawa from being “configured to accommodate the lower body portion of said first card,” as recited in claims 1 and 11. In particular, these protrusions, labeled A and B in the figure below, prevent Asakawa from receiving cards having different thicknesses, and demonstrate that Asakawa’s card connector is not intended to accommodate such cards.



In addition, the alleged first and second spaces of Asakawa are not “configured to receive the first card,” as recited in claim 21, at least due to the presence of protrusions A and B. Claim 21 is thus distinguishable over Asakawa for this additional reason.

For at least the reasons set forth above, therefore, Asakawa fails to disclose all limitations of claims 1, 11, and 21, and these claims are allowable over this reference. Claims 2 and 7 are allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 1; claims 12,

14-20 are allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 11; and claims 22 and 25-30 are allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 21.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 23, and 24 as being unpatentable over Asakawa in view of Horie, and submit that neither Asakawa, Horie, nor the combination of these references teaches or suggests each and every element of these claims. In particular, Horie does not teach or suggest the claimed base plate and second spaces nor does the Examiner rely on Horie for such teachings. Horie therefore fails to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Asakawa. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 23, and 24 are allowable at least due to their corresponding dependence from claims 1, 11, and 21.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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